

THE
MODERN
TATTLER.

30
1087 C 20
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Tattle

*Si quod novistis Rectius istis ;
Si non his utere mecum.*



L O N D O N,

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E R R A T A.

PAge 6. Line 21. *for* at soon, *read* as
soon. P. 31. L. 4. *for* in Tempers,
read with Temper,





PREFACE.



THE Knowledge of Mankind, as we are Social, as well as Rational Creatures, is of the last Advantage to all Sets of Men; especially to such as set out in the Beginning of Life.

YOUTH head-strong, and impatient, by this may safely evade the Rock Others have split upon; and the naturally fluctuating Stripling will foresee the Benefit of thinking coolly, and judging with Deliberation before it is too late.

LIFE is a Scene, wherein we are toss'd, and tumbled about; the Snare of the Cunning, and Fraudulent is deeply laid, to catch the untinking. The Artful Smiles of the Sycophant are a Trap for the Vain-glorious:

P R E F A C E.

In a Word, the supine, inactive Man is the Dupe of every Body.

THE Politest of the Romans imagined, that setting out Vice in its own natural, and intrinsick Turpitude, and in enumerating its bad Consequences on the Goods of Fortune, and the woful Depravity it entails on the Faculties of the Mind, was the most successful Scheme to put its Votaries to the Blush; and deter the Early Adventurer from Attempting a vicious Course.

COU'D I persuade myself, that there were no such Vultures, who have professed themselves the Devourers of the tender Fancy, I might have saved myself the Trouble of Writing, and the indulgent Reader, I fear, a greater: The whole View I had in this Attempt, was from repeated Observation; to assure the World of such Enemies, as have too too often been look'd upon as Friends; and therefore, the more dangerous, as it was more in their Power to do Mischief.

S E C.



SECTION I.

Mens sana in Corpore sano.



HIS was the *Summum Bonum* of the Ancients, the greatest Degree of Happiness, and the most substantial Bliss: Indeed, it's what every sober Mind, that reasons right, and judges coolly, will frankly subscribe to. Such an intimate Connexion there is between the SOUL and BODY, and so strong an Influence the Actions of the One has over the Operations of the Other, that a Contagion, communicated to either, insensibly spreads its corroding Qualities, and soon succeeds the fatal Catastrophe of Both.

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LET us, for once, suppose the odious Monster has seiz'd the Body ; whether it is the Effect of Chance, or the necessary Attendant of a vicious Course : Can Youth, dedicated to all the extravagant Pastime of Lust, whose Views are solely bent to the solacing his sensual Appetites, who has tortur'd his Imagination in the Discovery of new Scenes of licentious Effeminacy, and leud Debauchery ; Monster of Invention, and perfect Master of every fashionable Vice ; Stranger to thyself, thoughtless, and infatuate Man ! what Store of Punishment hast thou industriously laid up for thy Portion ? by three Degrees more cursed than the Brutes that perish, never to rise again ; durst Thou view the horrid Portrait, and consider it well ? On one Side, Contempt and Ignominy forms a great Part of the Image, and raises, with a masterly Fire, the Scorn of your Friends, and the Jest of Society. How have You profusely squander'd your Time ! How have You, perhaps, smother'd a rising Genius, and depriv'd Mankind their Due of an useful Member ! Hence Ridicule, and Ignorance be your Portion ; but still prepare to feel heavier Curses, and Calamities of a deeper Dye ; if heavier can fall.

VIEW all the Agonies of exquisite Torture, and intensest Pain; these distorted Limbs, that emaciated Body reduced to a Specter; that slow Fever ~~you~~ steals in upon You, will soon attack your Vitals, and burn up, with unquenchable Drought, that parched Liver, and disturbed Brain; but what is this to the secret Horrors of Mind, direful Companion of the most harden'd, veteran, and accomplish'd Debauchee? and at Length, dye a Victim to a deliberate Folly, and lye unregretted; except by such as were more foolish than Yourself.

Whether One hurries thus with a resolute Precipitancy, or under a more specious Pretence, butchers his Time in indolent Sloth: The Business of Eating and Drinking, the quick Transition from his Couch to his Table, engross all his Hours; how prodigiously would it shock a Stranger to dine of the profuse Libations of Blood, the smoaking Carcases, under whose Weight the Table groans, much fitter for the polluted Altars of the *Pagans*, or a delicious Regale for the modern *Hottentots*. Sloth, and luxurious Pampering, Thou faithful Parent of all the direful Train of Sickness and Death!

THUS in a lethargick Bliss, and in a groveling Extacy, his Hours are gone: Enemy to none but himself; in the Midst of this Plenty, how does he starve his Mind? Contemplation, the Business of the rational Soul, never existed there: No; This is the Consequence of early Application, and assiduous Diligence: Such is the Nature of our Minds, that what Bent they first receive, it rarely, if ever, and not without the greatest Violence, can be worn out.

HENCE it is, that Such as have the Misfortune to be deserted by wise, and prudent Guardians, in their young and tender Years, their sensual Appetites make a Prey of their infant Understanding, become a Sport to their Passions, and by one continu'd *faux pas*, pass a Life of doing nothing, or doing Mischief.

A VIRTUOUS Education, when attended with a tolerable Genius, will, some Time or other, strike out, and declare their Importance to Society; and tho' political, and wise Reasons of State have, as ancient as Men composing themselves into social Bands, tasted the Necessity of a civil Subordination, for the better Conduct, and
wiser

wiser Administration; yet there is no Distinction betwixt Souls, nor can Knowledge be the hereditary Intail, even of the House of *Bourbon*: No; Education forms the Mind, and puts Mankind on a Level; and in Consequence of this, all wise States have laid it down as an Axiom in Prudence, to raise, and applaud Virtue, however conceal'd in a Corner; to reward Merit, tho' of the meanest Extraction; and encourage Bravery, tho' cloath'd with Rags. I mean no Reflection, far be it from me, on any Set of Men.

BUT is any Person ignorant who form'd the Schemes, that have been so very successful in aggrandizing the Characters of the *French*; not only making them terrible in Arms, but great in Trade and Commerce. Monsieur *Luvois*, in *Louis* the 14th's Time, form'd the Police of the one, and *Colbert* foresaw the Success of the other; their Fondness in surpassing Others don't rest here, nor is it confin'd to its own Nation.

If Encouragement can be the Reward of Learning, or can purchase Knowledge, tho' of foreign Growth; they kindly em-

brace it as their Compatriot, and cheerfully reward its Labours.

THUS the *Academy of Sciences*, which was erected on the Plan of our *ROYAL SOCIETY*, the Effect of Emulation, how far it has outdone us let Every One be Judge. Indeed, it's no Wonder, seeing no Person is admitted there, unless their Reputation, and Character for Learning is universally known; they first invite them to accept of being a Member, and then annex a considerable Stipend.

THE *Romans*, the sworn Friends of Virtue, and constant Rewarders of Bravery, never fail'd to applaud Heroism; even in the most despicable Soldier: Witness the celebrated House of the *Decii*; the First of the Family, who distinguish'd himself by his intrepid Bravery, was Consul with *Manlius*.

IN the War against the *Latines*, at soon as he perceiv'd the left Wing under his Command daftardly to retire, and give back, immediately struck Terror to the Enemy, and inspir'd his Soldiers, by spurring his Horse into the thickest of the Enemy's Forces; bravely ventur'd his Life,
and

and was kill'd in the Bed of Honour ; it turn'd the Success of the Day, and the *Roman* Army came off victoriously. His Son died in the same Manner in the *Tuscan* War ; and his Grandson, invested with the Virtues of both, breath'd his Last in the War with *Pyrrhus*. Hence sings *Juvenal*,

*Plebeiae deciorum Animæ, plebia fuerunt
Nomina pro totis Legionibus bis tamen, et pro
Omnibus auxiliis, atque Omni pube Latina
Sufficiunt Diis infernis Terraque Parenti
Pluris enim Decii quam qui servantur ab illis.*

DID any private, and obscure Soldier behave himself with undaunted Bravery ? it had its own Reward. Witness the different Crowns, the Reward of their Heroick Enterprize. Thus he, who first forced the Enemies Entrenchments, was adorn'd with the *Corona Castrensis*, or *Villaris*, &c. The most remarkable Person in History, for obtaining a vast Number of these Rewards, was One *C. Siccus Dentatus*, who, for his natural Bravery, had Eight Crowns of Gold, Fourteen Civic

B 4

Crowns,

Crowns, Three Mural, Eighty Three Golden Torquees, Sixty Golden Armilla, Eighteen Hastæ puræ, and Seventy Five Phaleræ *.

WHERE does Learning shine with the brightest Lustre in our own Nation? Who are the ablest, the most candid, and upright Statesmen? Who are the most loyal Subjects? Who are the strenuous Supporters of Virtue? And who steps in to save a sinking Land? Men surely renown'd for their Knowledge; who have raised themselves to the most distinguish'd Characters for their Merit and Loyalty; and secur'd the same by their Integrity, and publick Bounty; whom no Threats, nor Menaces can affright; nor Art and Cunning, however deeply laid, surprize.

AGE, reverend by Years, and wise by Experience; wou'd you bless your Eyes with the delightful Prospect of a promising Progeny before you fall asleep; be careful, in Excess You can't err; be solicitous in training up the tender Mind in the most agreeable Notions of strict Virtue; instil the valuable Principles of Knowledge with a gentle Hand; let them see that the
Dig-

* Vid. Agit. lib. 2. cap. 11.

Dignity, and Perfection of their Nature is to know. The strongest Lesson, and what will have the greatest Influence is *Example*; then the Stress of this falls on You. Do You answer for Yourselfes, but beware of running to Excess. Here is a golden Mean, don't pall the Faculties, and forfeit the Judgment; let Wisdom never be presented in a fullen, and morose Dress; this is cloister'd Pageantry, and what has done great Mischief to the pliable Will.

Wou'd You expect a *Cicero* at the Bar? a *Cæsar* in the Camp? a *W-----le* at the Helm of Affairs? In fine, wou'd You wish to see an upright, and sincere Friend, disinterested in his Views? a flourishing, and renowned Nation? be this your Plan of forming the Mind, and inevitably will follow the wish'd-for End. I conclude my Notion of Knowledge with Mr. *Pope*.

Tell, if You can, what is it to be wise?

'Tis but to know how little can be known;

To see all Others Faults, and feel our own.



SECTION II.

Crescit indulgens sibi dirus Hydrops.



THE successful Springs of confus'd Disorder, and sudden Destruction in the political Body, is open Violence, and secret Fraud; when the first is carry'd on with arbitrary Sway, and supported with the Sanction of Arms; when Rapine, and Force take Place of wholesome Laws, mitigated with indulgent Equity; and Cruelty is perpetrated with a successful Hand, &c. if Defamation and Slander, the Off-spring of infernal Invention, if fulsome Railing, and clownish Ridicule, the Brat of Ignorance and Envy, are patroniz'd by any Character, how inconsiderable soever; it grows with rapid

rapid Success, and gains Partisans intirely devoted to its Interest.

COULD a Nation, State, or People resolutely determin'd to enslave themselves, in extream Misery, wish for greater Curses than such a Constitution as the first includes? And could a mild, and generous, a benign, and human Government imagine an Enemy hatch'd in their very Bosom, of a more damnable Spirit than the last?

THANKS to the Guardian Powers of the *British* Isle, tho' Time has been, yet is now no more; that what is dearest to Mankind, their *Natural Liberties*, and *Religious Rights*, the one due to them as they are Men, the other as *Christians*, was invaded, violently extorted from them, and the Exercise of the same reduc'd to such a dangerous Experiment, that not only their Fortunes, but even the Lives of the first Rank tamely paid the Forfeiture; and can One in his right Wits look back on this sad, and dismal Tale, and not bless his Stars, for the Kindness of Providence, in cutting out his Span of Life in such blessed, and happy Days: Days, wherein the Scriptures are fulfill'd; *Our King is a Nursing Father*. Plenty runs
Mis-

down our Streets, and Peace is heard in every Corner: Happy *Britain*! not only Mistress of Yourself, but formidable enough to reconcile contending Monarchs; as if Nature had design'd You to determine the Fate of Things below.

HENCE Civil Broils, and Intestine Jars adieu; secure your own Peace, and *Europe* will implore your decisive Hand; suppress the early Appearance of Faction, and crush Party even in the Bud; let them assume the common Prostitute of Patriotism, and present a Peace Offering to the Capricious Mob. The Consequence we see, and are not at all concern'd at the Event. Some few Zealots, for a lawless Indulgence, or mistaken Liberty, will pour out the Torrent of Cant, Suspicion, and opprobrious Reflections on the Administration; but this will be effectually prevented by throwing a Bate in their Mouth, or will soon fall with themselves.

DURST we indulge our selves in the Remembrance of no far distant Reign, and there view the confused Hurry of Oppression, and arbitrary Sway; the Laws violated, and Parliaments no more; dismal was the Scene, and fatal the Catastrophe.
Lo!

Lo! Mankind bereav'd of their darling Priviledges, oppress'd to a mad exasperation: Some Enterprize must be attempted to suppress the growing Evil; and indeed, an effectual One was provided. O horrid to Name! No less than the most sacred Character must fall a Victim to the Rage of an incensed People.

DESCEND a little lower in the Series of Accidents, and observe the secret Springs of artful Cunning, and fraudulent Design, put in Motion: Hence successless Combinations blush at the Representation, and let Silence be the Fruit of your empty Attempt. Mad was the Enterprize, and blind Fury fomented the Design. Strange! To behold Mankind weary'd out with Clemency, and generous Liberty; and not satisfy'd with a Protestant Security for their Lives and Fortunes; with impatient Distraction they are fond to lay themselves at the Mercies of a *Popish Slavery*; embrace the Yoak of superstitious Misteries, and become the Babes of a *Monkish Crew*; whose Views have ever been Rapine, Cruelty, Ambition, and Avarice; or what is worse to Name.

THEY

THEY first bubble Mankind out of Reason, and then trick them out of their Fortunes; the Effect of their well contriv'd *Pardons*, *Absolutions*, and *Extreme Unctions*. Dismal, as I myself have seen; a Man, or rather Wretch, left to their Mercy in his Death-bed Groans, when the Soul was fluttering on the Lip, ready to bid a lasting Adieu; even then, hurry'd with the Cunning of a designing Priest; nor will he leave him till his Preaching becomes effectual; and to the Prejudice of his nearest Heir, both by Law and Nature. He leaves his Estate to defray the Expenses of religious Prodigality, and luxurious Piety.

THUS in *France*, and I believe it equally holds in all *Catholick* Countries, they have engross'd the one Fourth of the whole Revenue of the Kingdom into their Hands.

THUS *Monkish Idleness*, and *Cloistered Indolence*, contriv'd to ruin Society, the greatest Enemy to any State or People; Enemy to Trade and Commerce; in one Word, Bane of whatever raises the Dignity of any Nation; long have they thus sway'd with Success, but now Mankind suspects their
their

their Infallibility, and wisely fees thro' the Mask of *holy Delusion*; and when this happens, the nearest Heir has appeal'd to the Parliament of *Paris* for Redress, and oftner than once of late, Law and Equity has turn'd out *Jesuitical Villany*. As for other Nations, where the *Inquisition* is tolerated, as *Spain* and *Portugal*, Good God! what Cruelty is perpetrated! Would it not shock the Reason, and draw Pity from the most obdurate Heart, to see Mankind grown so cheap, that the Lives of human Creatures should be at the Mercy of every capricious, religious Villain!

MAY Heaven secure our Constitution, and prosper the happy *Hanoverian* Succession; and when God, and they are on our Side, securely we may smile at such as can be against us.

Let us bid Farewell to Confusion and Hurry, and view the Image in the Pride of Plenty and Liberty. Mankind grew good, and great under the auspicious Scepter; Arts flourish'd in that Long, and Prosperous Reign of a Virgin Queen, whose Knowledge and Penetration, made Choice of the wisest Counsellors at Home; who always preferr'd the Good of their Country,

try, to the Inriching their private Coffers; whose Fortitude and Bravery Abroad, not only brought *Europe* to acknowledge her Sway, but *America* bends under her Feet. *Spain*, with all her haughty Pride, and secure Confidence in her invincible *Armado*, (as they were pleased to term it) becomes her Captive; and the rest, Fortune, the *British* Hero, turns loose to the saucy Winds; and are made a Prey to the raging Deep. Our Counsels are as deeply laid as ever, our Indulgent Monarch bids Defiance to the Threats, and the lawless Fury of a People, whom no Tyes however sacred can bind; and have no Notions of Honour separated from their own Interest. The Nation, never before of one Mind, pants after *Restitution*; and if Clemency, and generous Goodness is abused; if the Laws of Nature, and Nations are thus violated; have we not Law, and every thing that is sacred, to protect us, if Destruction and Perdition should be their Portion?

THE *Dutch*, sage in their Counsels, and deliberate in their Determinations, wearied of *Spain*, and suspecting the treacherous Friendship of the *French*, fly for her Assistance, as the only Anchor of their Stay; freely offer their Provinces under her
Pro-

Protection, as an Appenage to *England*; but this She generously refus'd as unjust, to take an Advantage of their Necessity driven almost to Exasperation; tho' at the same Time She secur'd them by her Protection, and concluded a Treaty on the same.

UNDER secret Fraud, all Attempts to vilify, detract, or ruin a Character, or Person is understood; and indeed, this is the successful Engine, that designing Men have always had Recourse to; no Scheme is so effectual in reducing the Character, even of the greatest Men, and making them appear little to a giddy People, always fond of something new, as Railery and Detraction. But alas! it seems most true, that we have only Eyes to find out the Faults of others; or to imagine Blemishes in the Conduct, that differs from a preconceived Plan we have formed in our own Minds; and if a Man has the Misfortune to rise from Merit, he will undoubtedly find Opposers, be the Hazard what it will.

THIS I found verify'd the other Day in a mixed Company, where I accidentally chanced to fall; the Persons who com-
C pos'd

pos'd this, were of different Ages, and different Professions: This, I soon discover'd from the visible Characters express'd in their very Countenances.

AFTER the common Ceremony of a decent Muteness at first Meeting was over; Silence was broke by One, who afterwards had all the Inclination in the World to engross the whole Conversation; his *Petulance*, and *Ostentation* soon picqu'd the whole Company; the hard Names of *Procedure*, *Precedent*, and *Judicature*, almost perswaded me I was got into *Westminster-hall*; and for what I know, he might have gone on in his *Parade of Technical Learning* 'till now, had not a *Second*, whose Fire animated his Courage to interrupt the *Dictator*.

I MUST own by the Bye, not in an extraordinary civil Manner, his blustering Cowardice in a Trice hurl'd him in Scenes of Blood, amidst Sages, Entrenchments, and Breaches. In short, the noisy Din of this hectoring Warrior, quite stupify'd my *First Spark*, and excited a *Third* to try his Wit, who in the most obsequious Manner imaginable, begg'd Pardon for Interruption: His Air seem'd so soft, his Manner
so

so delicate, that my Expectation was screw'd to the highest Pitch of Hope; He began with a Dissertation on *Taste: Masquerades, Redotto's, Opera's and Balls*, were in their utmost Delicacy described. This convinc'd me he was *The Fine Gentleman*.

I Was a meer Spectator, and by my own Observation, and what they were pleas'd to impart, Each in his Turn, of one another, convinc'd me they were all of the same Mind; that is, Each was the most knowing Person in his own Opinion; and that the very Fault he espy'd in his Neighbour, his Friend complain'd of in him.

BROKEN Hints, and sly Insinuations seldom, or never fail of doing Mischief; and when this begins in any Nation, depend on it, *Latet anguis in herba*. This is the first Attempt. Let its Patron be only Silence and Contempt, it needs no better Friends; it will grow under this Influence, and what the Issue will be, requires no Conjuror to foretel.

HENCE it is, that all wise States have been exceedingly jealous in allowing the Characters of principal People to become so cheap, as to be exhibited on the Stage.

Athens, Thou Mother of Knowledge, and great Law-giver; to You I appeal for the immoderate Liberty of the Stage. *Eupolis*, for his Play term'd *Diper*, was drowned by *Alcibiades*. In the Reign of *Alexander* the Great, sole Monarch of Mankind, who even out-stript Fame herself, a Law was made, that even *A Suspicion of Scandal* was actionable, tho' no Name was mention'd.

How then ought the Rigour of the Law to be poured out on those licentious Pens, who not only attempt to use with Freedom and Scorn, the first Character of the Kingdom, but even the Fountain of Honour and Power? Every *British* Heart, and Loyal Mind ought thankfully to acknowledge, and bless the Step in reforming the *Dramatick* Constitution, so as to be under the Cognizance of a Person of Honour; Whom no Views can ever excite to betray Virtue, and tamely allow the indulgent Influence of the Crown to fall into Disregard without Impunity. And if this Scheme does not effectually put an End to any further Attempts, may this wholesome Advice be their Portion.

*Immedicabile Vulnus,
Ense recidendum est,
Nisi Pars sincera trahatur.*

S E C-



SECTION III.

Nobilitas sola est atque unica Virtus.

VAIN are the Attempts ! Delusion possess the Man, who dreams that the Goods of Fortune, and a boasted Race of Ancestors, lost in the early Dawn of Time ; perhaps, by three Degrees less wise than himself, is sufficient to command popular Adoration, and preserve his Memory from the infectious Rust of Time.

THIS Man, the Dupe of Sycophants, who feeds his Vanity so as he can never see thorow the Cheat ; and perhaps, a Ribbon, or some Badge of Distinction, almost sacred by its Name, is a sufficient Sanction

to screen his Character at all Hazards, and hood-wink him the more ; so that these Gentlemen contract an Habit of Thinking, and Acting peculiar to that Species, and at best see Things confusedly.

SUCH Objects as naturally fall within their Sphere of Vision, pass unnoticed as to their Properties ; from a supercilious Indifferency, added to the Want of Habit in measuring the Signs of the different Angles, that fall on the *Retina* of their Understandings ; and consequently obtain a perfect Knowledge of the various Affections ; so that they are obliged to form their Judgments upon a second Story.

OTHERS appear to them in a preposterous Manner, perhaps, depending on the Fallacy of the Medium, thorow which the Rays are reflected ; representing Objects much the same, as the *Lens* of a determin'd Figure represents them inverted, or topsy-turvy. And indeed, no Wonder, since like a certain Animal, they see most clearly in the dark ; and consequently can't discern plainly in the Face of the Sun.

HIS over-grown Estate supports his Extravagancy ; his splendid Equipage, and gaudy

gaudy Furniture dazzle his own Eyes, and amuse the Fancy of the Crowd. Stranger to all kind, and benevolent Actions, lost to all generous, and friendly Offices; tyrannical, and oppressive, because he is rich; cruel, and inhuman, because he has vast Numbers of Dependents; and supinely insolent, even to such as cope with him in all Respects save one; because *he knows no better*. Such a Person infallibly entails upon himself Contempt, and Ridicule from the wise and sober; Fear, and Hatred from such as are under his arbitrary Sway.

NOTHING more is requir'd to make a Man belov'd, a good Member in Society, and a Friend to himself, than judging right, and doing well; but so long as the Force of Prejudice predominates, and we become a Sport to the Hurry of our Passions, blindly we rush on; and in one continued Hurricane of thoughtless Extravagancy, we glut down sensual Joys with a greedy Fondness; till they have intoxicated our Judgment, and we reduc'd to the dismal Pass of obeying their capricious Dictates; sure then, 'tis of the utmost Consequence to fortify ourselves against the most distant Allurements of their bewitching Charms. Have we Resolution enough to fly the

Snare, and consider it in its natural Light, soon will we be undeceiv'd, and dye it shall with Contempt and Neglect.

THIS equally concerns all States of Men, since none can be so contemptible, but by making a right Use of the Opportunities in his State of Action, he may be a useful Member in Society. The Goods of Fortune, when laid out to the best Advantage by a wise, and prudent Oeconomy, are the greatest Blessings of a social Life; if such a Person has kind Affections, tender, and compassionate; liberal, and generous; without a sparing Hand imparts the Bounty of Fortune bestow'd on him, in encouraging Learning, supporting Arts and Sciences, rewarding Industry, and under his Influence has the Pleasure to see Men grow Good and Great; Stranger to that confined, and maimed Liberality of bestowing his Treasure, which he willingly would have kept, had not Death, the absolute, and uncontroulable Monarch, hurried him away, in the Midst of his darling Projects. He charitably, mistake it not, founds an Hospital, Nursery of Indolence and Wickedness; and under this pious Fraud he sooths the raging Frowns of his Conscience, eternizes his Memory, and

and takes a Leap into the other World
A Compleat Saint.

So soon as Mankind become a Prey to their inordinate Appetites, and a Sport to their Passions, they are in the fairest Way imaginable to lay the Foundation of Confusion, Disorder, and Ruin: It may be worth While to consider its gradual, and natural Progression in one Instance.

THE ambitious Man, flush'd with the Hopes of Preferment, and distractedly resolute in the Pursuit of Honour, pants after the gilded Prospect with insatiable Thirst; his Hours are consum'd in projecting what Scheme will be most successful in attaining conspicuous, and distinguish'd Places. Sycophant to Fame, and Drudge to the Huzza's of the People! Should some malicious Star cross his Fate with her Influence, and he miss his Aim; or should some dear Companion under the strictest, and inviolable Ties of Friendship, betray his Interest, the Mask is pull'd off, and he bursts out into Malice, Cruelty, and Revenge; and if it is in his Power, Ruin will close the Scene.

RULES

RULES of political Prudence must have always Respect to the Nature of the Government, and the peculiar Genius of the People; their Customs, sacred by Antiquity, perhaps trivial enough, must not be invaded; and their general Notions, however lame, and ridiculous, must be flatter'd. But,

ONE General Maxim I will venture to lay down, which equally holds good in all States and Countries; and liable to as few Objections as any other; and that is, *Let the Good of the Whole, and the General Advantage, without being biassed to any particular View, or private End, however conspicuous be the Rule of Action.*

HENCE it is, that Confusion and Destruction has been the Fate of all Societies, who, contemning this Axiom, securely persu'd the mercenary Conduct of Inriching a Few, at the Expence of exorbitant Taxes, till Mankind grown weary of the rapacious Demands, obey Nature, longing for Liberty, dash off the Yoak of Power; and by that Means subject the Tyrant, and themselves to the Clemency of a Stranger.

THUS

Thus the *Macedonian* Kingdom, thro' the Covetousness of *Perfes*, may tell the dismal Tale.

RODORICK, King of *Spain* (Monster, if ever there was one) of Lust, and Uncleanness; whose deflouring Count *Julian's* Daughter, his own Relation, produc'd a Revolt; and was the Cause of the *Moors* Conquering *Spain*, and Possessing it six, or seven hundred Years.

TERRENTIUS VARRO, when Consul of *Rome*, gave Battle to *Annibal*; but by his dastardly Cowardice, and Temerity, caused that remarkable Battle at *Cannæ*, to the Danger of the Common Wealth; which in the End tamely yielded up to the Ambition of *Julius Cæsar*.

FERDINANDO, King of *Naples*, conspicuous for his Wickedness, never undertook any Scene of Iniquity that he did not perpetrate; Oppression, and Cruelty were the darling Attendants of his Life.

Nor was his Son, **ALPHONSO**, who succeeded him in his Kingdom, less infamous for his Debauchery, the Hereditary

ditary Intail, and improv'd to the basest Ends. Avarice (a Vice beneath the Notice of the Regal State, and the Pomp of Robes, certain Companion of a groveling, and little Mind ;) he introduc'd, even to the making a Merchandise of his Kingdom : Cruel to relate ! By his Commands were bought up all the Oil, and Grain in the Country, and sold it at most exorbitant Rates ; compelling them to choose the best of the Two, either in the Midst of Plenty to starve, or take them at his Price.

Thus did his base, and private Views make a King a Tyrant ; and the Patron of Equity and Liberality, a Monster of Cruelty and Injustice ; even to the Casting off the Dictates of Nature, which binds the Savage, so that it can't shake off the Instinct. But this is not all, he deflower'd Virgins, and took married Women by Force. Sacrilege, and Simony were trifling Mistakes in his Character.

Thus he sold the Bishoprick of *Tarentum* for Thirteen thousand Duckats to a Jew for his Son ; who, he perswaded himself, might in Time become a *Christian*.

ABBIES, the religious Retreat of pious Souls, were turn'd into fit Habitations for *Falconers*. These are only a few of the black, and horrid Crimes, that made up his Character, the necessary Fore-runners of Destruction and Devastation.

A KING debauched in his Morals, drench'd in Vice, and People wallowing in Effeminacy, are the easy Purchase of the first Enterprising Monarch, in the Midst of his imaginary Security.

CHARLES, the 8th King of *France*, wisely considering his Circumstances, improv'd them to his own Advantage; for being reduc'd to the miserable Pass of imploring Friendship on the most dishonourable Terms, dispatch'd Embassadors to accommodate Matters; tho' at the Expence of a yearly Tribute of 50000 Ducats, and to hold his Kingdom in Fealty and Homage.

CHARLES, deaf to all Entreaties, and resolv'd in his Attempt, with an Army enter'd *Italy*, and subdu'd, without great Difficulty, all before him; and at Length put a Stop to Cruelty, by leaving the *Neapolitan* Throne without a King.

THEN

THEN Diffidence soon becomes the highest Character of Mortals ; and Man, tho' of the most dignify'd Character, and Darling of Fortune, as long as he runs a vicious Course, and is protected by Folly, can never be secure.

VIRTUE alone is a Safe-guard, and sure Stay ; the Just, and Good Man bears up against the Frowns of Fortune, and calmly enjoys the substantial Pleasures of a Mind conscious of doing well ; whatever Vicissitudes happen, his inflexible Virtue never nods ; in Revolutions, and Confusions he is still the same. The Sun shall grow dim with Years, and pass away ; Nature shall be unhing'd, and the Elements melt with fervent Heat ; but *Virtue*, ever the same, shall flourish in Eternal Youth, adored by all Good Men on Earth, and rewarded by G O D Above.

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.



SECTION IV.

Varium & mutabile semper.



FEW Men, if they could steal the Leisure of looking into themselves, and fairly reviewing their Conduct in Tempers and Exactness; but would find so many Inconsistencies in their Behaviour, that the very Representation might make them blush, and be convinc'd, that they rather act from Caprice, and are hurried on with a diseased, sick Fancy, than any solid, and fix'd Principle.

THIS Observation in Manners, odd, and ridiculous as it appears, has too too often an

an Existence, even in the most regular, and best manag'd Oeconomist. Is it not notorious, that we hate and love by Turns, without being able to satisfy our own Inquisition, why we thus so fluctuate? Let the determining Principle, or rather Dream, be what it will; is it not notorious, that our Opinions of Men, and Things shift with the very Seasons, and very few are Proof, or can defend themselves against the crafty, and inveigling Man; and Prejudice with an implicate Reverence is submissively ador'd by all?

I Can conceive from an inherent Necessity, why Mens Passions and Tempers differ, and vary according to their different Complexions and Constitutions; and why in the various Stages of Life, they are so extremely inconsistent: Childhood is completely happy in Toys and Trifles. Youth looks back with Disdain, and considers Infancy with Contempt; tho' the present Pursuits, in which the greatest Part too of his Time is consumed, are equally ridiculous; and a thousand Times more vain. Riper Years, and a steady Judgement having got the better of the Fire, and Impatience of the young Man, sees the Scene that is pass'd with secret Horror and Dread; and looks
on

on it as a Romance, or fictitious Character of an idle Dream. His Schemes, which he fondly thought well laid, he now sees Air and Fancy; and what he chiefly confided in, and perswaded with the eagerest Desires, vexatious and vain; so that the whole Scene of our Acting each Stage of Life considers that which has gone before, as made up of endless Faults, and innumerable Mistakes; but yet, alas! is hoodwink'd, and can't discern the Foibles of the present.

HENCE we may easily foresee the exceeding Wideness in Point of Judgment, relating to the same Things, in Persons fashion'd after different Models, by the Prejudice of Education. And how unstable is the same Man, as to his Views and Opinions, according as he is influenc'd by some secular, and private Ends; so as Reason, Honour, or call it what You will, has an eternal Jar with Interest, or some low, and sordid Principle; till at Length the former is basely prostituted, and his whole Views turn upon Aggrandizing his Character; and his only Aim directed to enrich himself, at the Expence of every Thing that is sacred, or binding on rational Creatures.

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As long as he can securely pursue this Course, each Weakness in the Constitution, of which he is a Member, as there are none entirely without, are so many Advantages particularly adapted to the political Genius of the People; but let this Minion forfeit by any Cause, his Favour and Interest, he then immediately dooms Despair, and every Thing that is horrid, with a Prophetick Boldness, to be their Portion; and when odious to every honest Man, he then being dissatisfied, as he would have the World think, retires to the Country; there to end his Life in Malice and Reflection, pleas'd to amuse the idle, and giddy Mob with the Name of *A Patriot*; fondly imagining with *Cato*, that *The Gods take Care of Patriots*; but whether the discontented *Romans* were thus the Favourites of Heaven, I dare not say.

THE several, and frequent Schemes of Policy, and Government, fashion'd according to the Opinion of Civil Libertines, on the most lasting, and solid Basis, have appear'd to be idle; and rather calculated to amuse, and indulge their own Imaginations, and please a certain Party, than to contain any Thing substantial, and useful; so far have these been from influencing

cing the Conduct of their proper Patrons, that it is often notorious, that from the very Constitution, contriv'd to secure their Lives and Liberties, they have forfeited Both.

CAN the weakest of Mortals then imagine, that such a Person is serious? Or, that his Plan of Government is any more than a Dream? Especially, if You consider, that this *Brutus* formerly enjoy'd a certain Confidence in his Prince's Favour, and might have gone on so; had not Reasons, best known to those who were the best Judges, foreseen the Effects of his growing Power; and his narrow, and sordid Views that prompted him to Action.

SINCE then Nature is liable to be by-
ass'd, and influenc'd by so many Motives,
as *Ambition*, *Avarice*, &c. before we form
a Judgment of any Person's Conduct, we
ought to suppose ourselves in his very Scene
of Action; and then what appears so mon-
strously ridiculous, will, at least, have an
imaginable Plea of Reason on its Side.

ALLOWANCES ought, in Justice, to be
made for the Difference in a Person's Con-
duct, according to the various Seasons of
Life, and particularly to the Constitution;
D 2 when

when the Body is weak, and languid, the Mind becomes enervated, and its Operations frightful, and dull ; and no Wonder, since the Views, that we must have of exterior Objects, purely depend upon the Capacity of our Senses to convey the physical Properties to our Censury ; and the Mind forms Notions, or Idea's, correspondent to these antecedent Impressions.

HENCE it is, why in Old Age, tho' the Soul can never grow in Years, the Man is peevish ; and seems to have all the Weakness of Childhood again. The sickly, and diseased Body, by the smallest Provocation, becomes a Prey to the Fury of the Passions ; and the greatest of Heroes, and the most magnanimous, and brave Man have discover'd often the Foibles, and Perverseness of Infancy.

THUS *Oliver Cromwel*, with all the Ardour of a Hero, and Penetration of a sagacious Counsellor, whose chief Talent consisted in discovering the Weakness of Mankind ; and by that Means turning the same to his Advantage ; yet in the Decline of Life, bespoke a Mind tortur'd with Suspicion, and even despair'd of the Confidence of his best Friends.

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SECTION V.



HUMAN Nature seems to consist of two jarring, contrary Principles, or Motives to Action; and is alternately influenc'd by Both: For Want of considering This in its full Extent, and instituting a Scrutiny into the Object of Action; all our moral Schemes, or Inquiries, after the Springs of the same, have been romantick, and rather calculated to bewilder, than unravel, or lay Truth open in her native, and genuin Complexion. Some out of vain Glory, or what best known View to themselves, have made it their Business to aggrandise their Natures, and ascribe such Perfections, or Beauties, as are altogether

incompatible with Mortality, and the frequent Alloies of Corruption in the most regular, and compleat Character.

WHILST Others, I must say on a much more dishonourable Footing, have debased their Intrinick Dignity, and ascribed all the Properties of a rude Chaos, or meer inactive Matter, and made the Man, a Piece of Clock-work, or a passive *Automaton*.

BUT to consider this Scheme in a natural Light, let every One remind themselves of what passes every Day in their own Breasts ; Reason, the governing Principle, and Dignity of human Nature, does not always assume her Right ; and act with uncontrollable Sway over the more groveling, and weak Part of our Constitution ; but by Turns subsides, and yields her Power up to the sensual Appetites ; and we are set adrift to the Fury of our saucy Passions.

THUS from a complex View of our real Composition, we seem to partake of that Essence, placed in a State inferiour to the Perfection of the Angelical Creation ; and far superior, provided we follow the natural Bent of our rational Powers, to the

the perishing Brutes, that shall never rise again.

THIS is taking Man as he is; was he given to a constant solacing his sensual Inclinations, and the Bent of his Desires, the constant gratifying of his Appetites; then indeed, the Completion of his Desires would be irrational, and brutal; and his View of Happiness, as short-lived as his Carcase.

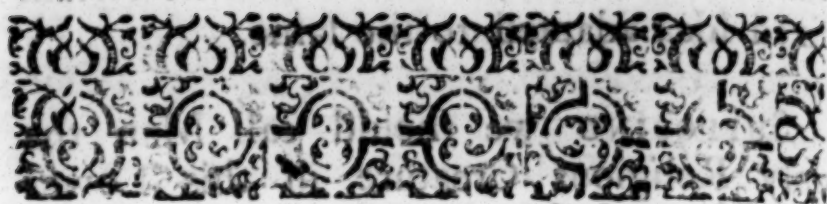
ON the other Hand, to suppose all his Pursuits spiritual; no inordinate Desires ever to rear their Heads, nor the Force of Temptation ever to prevail over his best Inclinations, and subdue his pious Desires, would be settling him in that Scene of Existence, that the great Author of our Beings, and the constant Supporter of them has assign'd for a different Species; who are not surrounded with the Weakness of Flesh and Blood, nor ever in Danger of being tempted; because there is none. So from what is said, we may easily foresee the Absurdity of various, and different Schemes of human Nature; and how extremely wild the Notions of Happiness they have entail'd upon it.

ON this Subject I would take Notice of one Thing, which I'm exceedingly surpriz'd, has not been more considered; and that is, the imperfect Definition of human Nature; to wit, a Rational Creature; far be it from me to subvert the common received Notion of Things, or to confound the Opinions of Mankind; but is any one Thing more notorious, than the Fact, that Brutes seem to exert the various Functions of their Intellectuals, in common with Man? Have they not all the exterior Organs of Perception, or those Avenues by which Sensation is communicated to the common Censury, in a higher Degree of Perfection than the rational Part; and this always wisely adapted in Proportion to their different Methods of Living: Some have their Eyes so placed as take in the whole Sphere of Vision, and consequently when these Organs are rightly directed, no Objects can possibly escape their Notice: Others have their proper Organs of Smelling so extremely delicate, as to distinguish the Effluvia, that each Body in Nature sheds forth. Don't we see, that they perceive, retain, compound, compare; or in one Word, reason, and draw Consequences in the strongest, and most natural Light; and why must all this go for Instinct? and the
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Mischief lies here, that we have no certain fixed Idea adapted to the same.

SUPPOSING we should call Man the only Religious Creature in this Lower World, and fix this as the great Difference, between the Human Species, and all others: This Scheme is true, is worthy of the great, and adorable Projector of all Things; and especially of that Part, which is, confessedly, His own proper Image, or Likeness: The most rude and ignorant, have an Object of Worship, which works upon their Passions of Love and Fear; as is allowed by the Observations of our modern Travellers; and all Antiquity stand it confessed, as may be seen in the Mythology of the Ancients. Others whose great Happiness has been to pass their Time in that Part of the World, where the true Object of Worship is constantly ador'd in all Religious Assemblies, must have perhaps a more adequate Idea of the Deity, and their Worship more perfect; but this only proves the Advantage of Education, and never possibly can subvert our former Argument; seeing this great Principle has an Influence equally upon their Conduct in Life.

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SECTION VI.

*Qui fit Mæcenæ ut Nemo quam sibi sortem,
 &c.*



IT may be worth while to consider, and endeavour to account for the fickle, and unstable Disposition of the Generality of Mankind, with their proper Lot, and secret Contest in their Breasts, with respect to the Turns of Fortune.

WAS such a Temper only to take Place in Those, who are oppress'd, and deny'd the Necessaries of Life, it might appear on the Side of Justice for such to complain. But this is not the Case; don't we every Day meet with Resolution in Rags, and Bravery superior to all Hardships, in a Rank beneath Contempt. So that it appears

pears to me either a Sickness of Mind, produc'd by Inattention, and Thoughtlessness; or an unhappy Cast of Temper, the Effect of an original Mistake.

In a private Character, can a Man give himself Leave to turn round, and look in upon the Situation of Others; how many will he find exactly tally with himself, and suit his present Condition: But alas! we are apt to be dazzled with the Externals, and be best pleas'd with what we least know. Hence it is, that we attribute to him a thousand chimerical, and borrow'd Views of Pleasure, that he himself never felt, or saw: Was he fully to consider all his Circumstances impartially, perhaps, what he so much admir'd in his Neighbour's Cup, wou'd have so many Alloys incorporated, and necessarily blended with the same, that his Opinion would presently alter; and Things appear in a far different View. This Transport, or Hurry of Mind arises from considering Things imperfectly, and by Halves; and is as soon over, as the Mind is divested of the Cloud that so darken'd, and hung over it.

It is true, that Man was made Lord over all, and sole Proprietor of this lower
World

World divided into many Shares ; but never to be appropriated for one Man's Lot: It argues the most unbounded Ambition, and sordid Principle, as we are social Creatures, not only to wish, but to put our Imaginations on the Rack in finding out Ways, to divest our Friend of what is his Property, and belongs to him by an undoubted Right.

THIS equally holds in all Characters, nor is any exempted from its binding Quality. 'Tis equally unjust, and contrary to the Dictates of Nature, for one Monarch to encroach upon, and by superior Power to extort that which belongs to another ; as for a low, and daring Villain to bereave me of what is mine.

CAN't it shock the Reason of the thinking Part of Mankind, to see some of their own Species cast off all Ties of Humanity, and be the Butchers of their Fellow-Creatures, for a few Pence to supply their present Necessities ; and yet must Streams of Blood, and Plains reeking with dying Carcasses, for an imaginary Title ; or perhaps, the Conquest of a petty Province go unnoticed, and claim Reason, and Right on their Side: Must the Murderer of One pay his Life for

for a Ransom, and yet the *Common Bully* of the World have Right for a Sanction?

ARE *Ambition*, and *Avarice* odious in a private Character? Is *Cruelty* contrary to the Dictates of Nature? yet from these, or worse Principles, have arisen the Actions of such as are sacred by Consent, and born on the Wings of Fame; fondly do we pass a favourable Sentence on their Conduct, and applaud their heroick Enterprises, which were unjust at best; as the living Magnanimity of the yet breathing Man.

WHAT in Reason, and sober Sense can vindicate the unbounded Desire of Conquest, and the insatiable Thirst after Glory of the fiery *Macedonian*? Disatisfy'd with what Fate had mark'd out for his Fortune, He, with a juvenile Ardour, begins his Enterprises, pursues them with Security and Success, and conquers Nations, who had never heard of him before; the whole known World he then sees Subjects to his tyrannical Power: He thus sole Master of the Universe, now bethinks, and considers where Glory had drove him to; he marks the Goal, and sees it narrower than his Desires; and as Children disatisfy'd with a *Gew-gaw*, because they can have

have no more ; *Alexander* weeps, because there are no more Worlds he can conquer.

BUT is he the only One, who thus panted after Power, and Conquest ? Let us only view what past Thirty, or Forty Summers ago ; and at a Time when the different Monarchs of States, and Kingdoms, had their Properties secured to them by the Law of Nations ; and uncontestable Right : And therefore, to divest them of the same was Robbery, Rapine, and every Thing that was bad ; and yet in spite of this, we shall see a *Charles of Sweden* act a Second *Alexander's* Part ; and commence the common Plague of Human Nature. This is a Character so oddly composed, the whole Incidents of his Life so surprisingly adventurous, that I never could read the History ; and I dare say, the succeeding Age will look upon it as a Romantick Fiction ; and that too, the Production of a wild, and lively Fancy.

LET us view the Picture of his Marching a whole Army, over a wide, and unknown Defart ; and that, at such a Season, and in such a Climate, without much Provision, and no Defence from the Inclemency

clemency of the Weather; so intense was the Cold, that the very Horses dropt down dead on the Journey : Add to this, that they knew their March so well, that Vales from Precipices, or dry Land from Rivers, they could not distinguish. This was his Case, and he underwent all the Fatigues, sharing the common Fate with his Soldiers; and therefore imagin'd they might endure the same Hardships with him. If this mad Hero had enjoy'd a Thousand Lives, so little Provision did he make for their Security, that he gave more than enough Opportunities, to have got rid of them all.

BUT as we are more conversant with a private Life; and those that undermine, and subvert our Properties, where the Case is not notorious and flagrant, so numerous; and the Bait laid with so much Art and Cunning, that we don't see the Deceit and Trick, till it is too late. An Instance, or two, of this Kind will have a greater Influence,; since it equally affects all.

YOUTH, alas! is the proper Prey for such a Race of rapacious Monsters; but often riper Years, and a settled Judgment fall

fall a Victim to their Artifice. The Engine set to Work is differently tuned, in order to carry on, and effectuate this, as they see it hits the natural Temper, and suits their Desire.

THEY find before they can make a Property of some, they must cunningly subvert the very Foundation; that is, destroy their Principles of Virtue, and instil other Notions, that lay them quite open to all their Designs, and then they find them a ripe Prey.

THE Fawning Sycophant, who, under the pleasing Smile, courts your Company, and wou'd engross all your Hours, is a dangerous Creature; he finds to his Experience, that all have a Tincture of Vanity, and there is a certain weak Side, and unguarded Minute, when Flattery will enter; and, like a mighty Torrent, carry every Obstacle down the Stream; Now can he unbosom himself to the deluding Syren; all his Schemes (however favourite, and such that he scarcely would have his very self know them;) are at once laid open; and his Person, Fortune, and every Thing, is too trifling to be laid out upon the dear Deceiver; who so long as he finds his Advantage

vantage in keeping Council will be secret ; but not one Breath longer : So that his Fame, Estate, &c. pay the Forfeiture, and too late finds himself deceiv'd, and betray'd.

THE Laws of the Land provide for the Safety of a Man robb'd, and Restitution is given at the Expence of the Villain ; the Thief, or dastardly, and sneaking Rogue is branded with the most ignominious Title, and seclused as unfit for Society ; and yet unpunish'd does the other Class insult over the Destruction of many a Fortune, which the Tears of their injur'd Relations bewail, and lament.

IF to this we add the very Soul of Deceit and Over-reaching, we shall have a general View of the fraudulent Designs of a great Part of Mankind, who wou'd willingly be thought otherwise ; and may even fancy they appear in a fair Light. The *Gamester*, formed with all the Politeness to engage, and captivate your Confidence ; and perfect Master of every Trick, to impose upon, and lead You away securely, and at length bubble You out of your Fortune.

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WHEN a Man makes the last Push for Subsistence, and wou'd grasp at every Thing to save him from sinking; he is securer to try his Fortune by this Method, than on the High-way; but equally criminal: He has nothing of his own Property to lose, and what he balances as equivalent to my Money is his Cunning, and Art: Thus it is plain, his only View was to catch at what was mine! Let such an One go on, but how surprizing is it, to see Men of sober Minds, and moderate, or plentiful Fortunes, infected with this Itch; it intirely banishes, and secludes all Conversation, the Pleasure of Life; and according to the capricious Turns of Chance, it hurries the Man to a Devil: So that in one continued Transport of Passion their Time is consumed, and when that Chance is alternate, the Scene goes beyond any Action we can imagine, unless among the Damned; First, that one Side storms Heaven with their rank, and black Imprecations; the Other, in their Turn, implores Hell gaping open to receive them alive.

BUT supposing One was sure, as it is impossible, of a constant, good Run of Luck; wou'd not any Man of Honour, as soon choose to pick his Friend's Pocket,

as to play, when he is convinc'd there is no Manner of Equality; and if the contrary takes Place, certain always to lose; he must be the verriest Mad-man in Nature, that would run the Risk.

THE Result of This is, that a Man can never be too much on his Guard, nor over-suspicious; especially, when he does not know his Company: Why shou'd his Quiet, and After-Peace be eternally sacrific'd, to gratify his present Pursuits, and purchase the fatal Friendship at so dear a Rate; therefore to conclude this with one general Maxim that is honest, and must be for ever advantageous; *Suspect every Man to be a Knave, till such Time as You are fully convinced of the contrary.*

BUT alas! how infinite is the Number of such, that are not satisfy'd with the Discontent hitherto mention'd; neither will the pleasant Prospect of another's circumscribe their Desires: But the whole World, the various Scenes either of real, or imaginary Bliss, is too much confin'd to gratify their Desires; and the Periodical Returning of the same Objects so frequently cloy, and certainly lose their Charms; thus surfeited, tho' Swimming in all the luxu-

rious Plenty of Earthly Pleasure, and loaded with the Pomp of gaudy Pride, they storm their Doom by Force, and wickedly imbrue their Hands in their own Blood.

DASTARDLY, and Timorous Wretch ! for Fear of losing a few shining Toys, or perhaps, being refus'd what your inordinate Desires have vainly painted to your Fancy as necessary ; have You thus cowardly thrown away your Life, and chose what You dreaded the lesser Evil ; not daring to look Fate in the Face ; or with a steady Resolution, and Bravery, wait the Decision of Omnipotence ; and with a calm Resignation, bless the Hand that gives the Blow.





SECTION VII.

Post est Occasio calva.



It is a notorious Truth, that there is a critical Minute, and Time, when the Mind is quite disarm'd of its usual, even natural Guard: Whether this Security arises from Temper, Education, or any other Principle You please.

THIS is the Time, when the close, and dry Man is all open and free; the parsimonious, and sordid Miser extravagantly profuse; and the Prude, or solemn Coquet grows social, and conforms to the usual Decency requir'd in Conversation; to

make it a free, and agreeable Intercourse: The Devotee, or rigid Hypocrite even outdoes the most accomplish'd Rake in private, or leud Debauchery; whose Business it has been to profess himself wicked.

THE nice Distinguishing of the Approach of these Periodical Turns in the Cast of Mind, and the judicious Improvement of them to One's private Use, is what may be call'd the *True Knowledge of Mankind*. A *Modern Phrase*, as Dean Swift complains, *prostituted to the worst Ends*.

By this I wou'd not be meant to understand Catching an Advantage, or Practising on a Person to his Ruin; or taking any unjust Means tending to his Disadvantage: No; but to bring a Man, who at other Times can't be persuaded in the Course of his Actions to the common Standard of Justice and Sense, to comply with both; which Conduct is agreeable to Honour, and Interest.

THUS the Miser, who doats upon his Treasure, and has no View separated from his very self, and only starves that he may drag a Life; may, at this nice Juncture, if warmly ply'd, be brought over to cherish
his

his emaciated Body, and give a Briskness to his flacid Spirits; or perhaps by Advice, even extend his Views further, and give out of his over-grown Estate, what may save a starving Orphan, and make *the Soul ready to dye, to sing for Joy.*

THE cloister'd, and dry Book-worm, who incessantly revolves long, and tedious Volumes, industrious, like the Ant for itself, separates from all Mankind, and grows peevish, and vain, in his studied Hours; when his Mind is open, will be diffusive, and communicate that Knowledge to Others, which he had laid in Store for himself.

BUT in Regard This may be made a Handle for bringing about base, and sad Consequences; as stealing the Opportunity at an unguarded Moment, to extort from your Friend, what, at another Time, was as dear to him as his Life, and puts it in your Power to betray him; But is the Prostitution thereof, I say, a Reason why a judicious, and discerning Man shan't embrace it, both for the Interest of his Friend, and himself. Besides, the Villany lies on the Side of the treacherous Rascal; and This, as the best Things, may serve a

Turn for the worst Use; so is it made a political Engine, accommodated to the gratifying his base, and villanous Ends.

INNUMERABLE Instances may be brought to confirm this; but I dare say, any Man, who has ever been conversant in Life, has a sufficient Number to evidence, and confirm this in the Course of his private Observations.

IN Publick Life, the Guardians of the People, and Such as preside over their Rights and Liberties, invested with Power to protect them against all Insults; and defend them, when actually attacked; ought in the strongest Manner, to look out for this Moment, lest by a delusory Supineness they see it too late; or if on the other Extream, too precipitantly, they plunge themselves in Action, and consequently, miss of what otherwise might have certainly been in their Power, had they allow'd the Scheme to come to perfect Maturity.

THAT Kingdom, State, or People, whose political Eyes are so set as to mark this critical Event, stand the fairest Chance to have Peace in their own Bosoms; and a
good

good Correspondence with their Neighbours. Our Neighbours the *French*, who on a superficial Reflection, appear the most inconsistent Characters imaginable, are happily cut out for catching hold of This: I dare say, there never was One in that Country, and had that Access to converse with the Gross of Mankind, but immediately concluded them the most open, friendly People alive; they eternally entertain You with their Conversation, but then it is either upon so trifling a Subject, or so diversify'd with innumerable Incidents; that they leave You where they begin, in the Mist. I wish there was not too much Reason to attack them with this in their publick Life; do I, or says the World, that all their Schemes are so deeply laid, their Projects conducted with so much Secrecy and Cunning, and calculated to break forth at a Time, when the World can't but admire their Address, tho' blame their Designs; because they so sensibly touch them.

THE Nation is extremely populous, the Inhabitants brisk, and the Will of the Prince their Pleasure; the whole Nobility, even to the disposing their private Affairs, contend who shall have most of his Prince's
Fa-

Favour, and enter the Service of their Country upon their own Expence: Riches, the Property of the same, sufficient to defray the most expensive, and tedious War; and yet, tho' the Sinews of War thus gird 'em round, was ever an Accession of Power, or Grandure, acquired by the same? No, but happy beyond Expression in the Art of Peace-making: So that we ourselves may tell the Tale! What had the glorious Exploits of a *Marlborough*, and an injur'd Queen and Country, as the Return of so much Blood, and Money? Less than nothing. And was not their Country restor'd, when in our Power, on the same Footing as formerly? Delusory, and false Peace, and only worthy of such who made it on our Side. *Lorain*, and *Bar* is a later Instance; and Possession, under the Pretence of supporting the Injur'd, is the best Title to any *Corfica*.

In Respect to *Spain*, may injur'd *Britain* complain, that this has been protracted to ten long tedious Years; and can't we be perswaded they are in Earnest, and at War with us? Is not the Incarcerating our Men, and treating them with the utmost Barbarity they can invent? Such as are only worthy of the Masters of an Inquisition? I

not Molesting our Trade, Plundering our Ships, and when we complain have Arrogancy enough to trump up the Story of an illicit Trade; Appealing to Treaties ratify'd, and confirm'd, won't do; or put them to the Blush. Here is a surprizing Evasion, to obtrude on us the monstrous, and most fatal Blunder, in not understanding the Spirit of the Treaties, and what is provided for us by the same.

To indulge ourselves now in Security, wou'd be a political Infatuation, and of dangerous Consequence ! What would be the just Return of all their Civilities ? *Burning their Ships, Racking their Men, and Sacking their Towns* ; and Then, and not till Then, will a *British* King, or Loyal Parliament be appeas'd and satisfy'd ; and till such Time, may a *Spaniard's* Name be the most Infamous Wretch alive. Delays are as dangerous in the Political, as Natural Body ; especially when, from the most evident Symptoms, we find Things come to a *Crisis*.

A black and dismal Storm from that Quarter, has hung brooding over us ; we have felt, (but what) only the Preludes to their Rank Artillery : And since Lenity, and a generous Contempt of smaller Injuries, the

the particular Glory of Our Sovereign,
and the happy, distinguishing Badge of
His Heroick Disposition, cannot effectuate,
and bring them to a sensible Conviction,
of their shrewd Violations of all
the Ties of Honour; and with a lawless
Freedom, despise their binding Force; We
are awake, the Time is now at Hand, the
critical Minute appears, and depend on it,
that,

Accidit in puncto quod non speratur in Anno.

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